

NEWS RELEASE

**OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS**

**RANDY G. MASSEY
ACTING UNITED STATES ATTORNEY**

Nine Executive Drive, Fairview Heights, Illinois 62208, Telephone (618) 628-3700

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BELLEVILLE AUTO PARTS STORE PLEADS GUILTY TO OBSTRUCTION OF A FEDERAL AUDIT

Randy G. Massey, Acting United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced today that on May 26, 2006, **UNITED AUTO PARTS, INC.**, an Illinois corporation with its principal place of business in Belleville, Illinois, pled guilty to an Information charging Obstruction Of A Federal Audit. The offense carries a maximum penalty (as it applies to a corporation) of a fine up to \$500,000, five years probation, restitution, and a mandatory special assessment of \$400. Sentencing has been scheduled for Friday, August 25, 2006.

The prosecution is the result of United Auto Parts endeavor to obstruct an audit that was being conducted by the United States Air Force to determine whether United Auto Parts was complying with a contract to provide auto parts to Scott Air Force Base. According to the Stipulation of Facts filed with the Court, on January 25, 2005, United Auto Parts, Inc. obtained a contract with the United States Department of Air Force, 375th Logistics Readiness Squadron, Scott Air Force Base, Illinois for an air force base auto parts store. Under the terms of the contract United Auto Parts received a certain amount of money to staff the base auto parts store, for overhead, and then was paid or reimbursed for parts ordered, and only for the amount of money that United Auto Parts actually paid for the parts. Robert A. Lelly was and is the President and authorized representative of United Auto Parts, Inc., a closely held family corporation that operates out of a business address in Belleville, Illinois. Robert Lelly was requested to provide receipts during the audit to determine the costs paid by United Auto Parts. During the audit, Robert A. Lelly, on behalf of United Auto Parts, Inc. provided false receipts to the United States Air Force auditor in an attempt to deceive the auditor. The total cost of the contract exceeded \$100,000 for each year the contract was in existence.

The prosecution is a result of an investigation conducted by the United States Air Force, Office of Special Investigations. The case is being handled by Assistant United States Attorney Norman R. Smith.